CITY OF LINCOLN
N E B R A S K A

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER
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October 13, 2009

Monty Fredrickson,
Director - State Engineer
Nebraska Department of Roads
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Rich Ruby,
District 1Engineer
Nebraska Department of Roads
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

RE: Nebraska Department of Roads 2009 Surface Transportation Program
        for District #1

Dear Messrs. Fredrickson and Ruby:

In my 2009 State of the City address, I encouraged our citizens to look beyond our
current economic conditions and help secure the future growth of the community. A
primary concern echoed throughout our community and shared by me is the City's
ability to grow existing services with decreasing revenues - a challenge we share with
the rest of Nebraska. We hope to continue our partnership with the state in addressing
this challenge.

On behalf of my community and staff, I extend my sincere thanks to you and the
Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) staff for assisting with our priority projects.
The Antelope Valley project, which is nearing completion, which will address flood
control, urban revitalization and core area transportation needs. The Lincoln South
Beltway continues to be a priority for both Lincoln and the State. That project will
ultimately address the safety and operational issues associated with automobile and
truck traffic prevalent on the current alignment of Nebraska Highway 2 through our
city. We continue to support the NDOR with staff support and limited local funds as
we wait for State and Federal funds to move this project forward. The City alone does
not have the resources to accomplish the Lincoln South Beltway project, and we
request that it be a top priority project for funding.

I would also appreciate the NDOR giving continued attention to the needed system
improvements for U.S. Highway 6 as it passes through Lincoln. Of particular concern
of our community is the segment of U.S. 6 from West "O" Street to Cornhusker
Highway known as Sun Valley Boulevard. This project can provide an efficient
roadway, improve traffic operations, resolve existing roadway deficiencies, and
accommodate locally adopted plans. This has been under study by the NDOR for
several years, but now the City is nearing a critical moment involving significant
redevelopment in this general area. The preferred alternative (1st Street realignment) is
expected to require significant new right-of-way, affecting two private businesses and
the City impound lot.

LINCOLN
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One other area deserving your departments's attention is the annual allocation of State Road funds for Lincoln. These funds include a combination gas tax and sales tax on automobiles and automobile registration fees, which represent only 3% of the total State Road funds. Unfortunately, these limited State resources, along with our local revenues, are not sufficient for us to keep pace with Lincoln's transportation needs. I am confident that together we can arrive at a more equitable and realistic method of allocating these road funds. As State and local road funds become scarce, I request that NDOR lead the process to secure additional funding that would enhance rather than compromise implementation of State and local projects. My staff and I stand ready to support you in this endeavor.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts; I look forward to working with you as we address the challenges of our respective constituencies.

Sincerely,

Chris Beutler
Mayor of Lincoln

cc: Rodney Vandeberg. District 1 Nebraska Highway Commissioner
       Trish Owen, Mayor's Office
       Marvin Krout, Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department
       Mike Brienzo, Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department
       Greg MacLean, Public Works & Utilities Department
       Roger Figard, Public Works & Utilities Department
       Randy Hoskins, Public Works & Utilities Department
       Virendra Singh, Public Works & Utilities Department